

**State Advisory Committee (SAC)  
for Children with Disabilities  
NH Department Of Education  
Room 15  
May 6, 2015  
4:30pm-7:00pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attended: SAC Members** Bonnie Dunham, Maureen Tracey, Heidi Cloutier, Candace Cole-McCrea, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Donna Curtin, Mary Heath, Jack Balcom, Joan Holleran, Kerri-Lynn Kimner, Eileen Mullen Kennedy, Karen Rosenberg, Mary Ellen Pantazis, Jean Parsons, Mike Pinard, Janet Reed, Michelle Rosado, Senator Nancy Stiles, Daniel Ward, Heather Worthen

**Guest(s):** Santina Thibedeau (Administrator, Bureau of Special Education), Jason Henry (Carroll County House of Corrections)

**Agenda I:** Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Minutes, Public Comment, Nominations

- Bonnie began the meeting at approximately 4:33pm
- Attendees introduced themselves and their role on SAC
- Approval of April Minutes
  - Joan Holleran made a motion to accept the April minutes, Donna Curtin seconded.
  - Candace advised the Kestrel's name is wrong, it should be Kestrel not Kestral
  - Bonnie made a motion to approve the April Minutes with the above correction. 10 yes and 10 abstentions. Motion passed.
- There public comments.
  - Daniel Ward, representing the Houses of Correction is retiring effective June 19, 2015.
- Nominations
  - Daniel Ward made the nomination of Jason Henry of the Carrol County House of Correction to represent the 10 county jails. Daniel to send a resignation letter and a nomination letter for Jason. Mary Heath seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Agenda II:** Updates from SAC Liaisons and Legislative Update

- No SAC Liaisons updates as Susan Marcotte-Jenkins and Audrey Burke are unable to attend the meeting this evening.

Legislative Updates:

- House Bill 126 ~ establishing a commission to study issues related to students receiving special education services while attending a chartered public school. Should pass.
- Bonnie attended the Senate finance committee meeting and provided testimony on behalf of SAC with regards to the wait list for students with disabilities; and requesting two hundred fifty thousand dollars for special education. Bonnie provided written testimony (passed around a copy of her testimony for review), as she also provided testimony as an individual. There was a large turnout of individuals to providing testimony.

- Janet Reed, HB 604 – relative to use of mixed use school buses by special education students passed, thanks all the stakeholders, there may be a slight amendment next year.
- Ed 1200 restraint and seclusion, a small stakeholder group is meeting and developing rules; while in the process, the initial proposal can be located on the NHDOEs website.
- Jack Balcom was pleased to see HB 519 – establishing a committee to study department of education policies affecting dyslexic students; he requested to be on the committee.
- Mary Heath, House Bill 126 ~ establishing a commission to study issues related to students receiving special education services while attending a chartered public school; she has requested to be on the committee.

### **Agenda III: Bureau Updates**

Santina Thibedeau, Administrator, Bureau of Special Education provided updates:

- SAMHSA Grant, project director Mary Steady and McKenzie Harrington-Bacote (Laconia) were asked, by Connecticut, to talk about our project, with Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education; strengths in collaborating, dialogue on communication, and mental health. Safe Schools / Healthy Students (SS/HS): the State Management team 35 representatives across the State; how the NHDOE works with our school districts, district coordinators are in of the conversations. Connecticut invited parents whose children were killed at the Sandy Brook incident. The Bureau has two and a half years on this grant.
- Project AWARE ~ looking at first responders, the Bureau conducted a training to train the trainers. The trainers will go out into the field and provide training to interested parties.
- Bureau FY'15 Memo #24, Chrome Institute ~ providing a free event for educators on the use of Google Chrome and chrome books as an instructional tool, using google apps.
- Independent Evaluator Request for Proposals; proposals received and being reviewed by a review team, when recommendation made to contract with and approved by Governor and Council, the Bureau will announce the vendor.
- Ruth Littlefield will be at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> SAC meeting to talk about the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) ~ social emotional development for preschools , plans to tie into Safe Schools / Healthy Students (SS/HS).

### **Agenda IV: Old Business, including: Report from subcommittee considering a response to the Commissioner's letter re: SAC's recommendations on the Full Implementation of IEPs**

- Next month is the last SAC meeting of the year, all subcommittees need to submit a report and submit information for the end of the year report.
- Nominations for Chair for the 2015-2016 year.
- Whereas it has been challenging for subcommittees to meet at each meeting, think about a format for next year.
- Karen Rosenberg, old business, update on subcommittee looking at failure to implement services of the IEP and multi-tiered system of support. The subcommittee wrote a letter to Commissioner, and received a response from Commissioner in October for more information; a letter was sent to the Commissioner on Sunday with a request for a subcommittee to meet with the Commissioner for clarification of information needed and to tie up the loose ends on the recommendations.

## **Agenda V:**

N/A

## **Agenda VI:** Subcommittees meet:

Subcommittees:

- ❖ Children with Disabilities Who Have Absent Parent(s)
- ❖ Ensuring that School Boards and Other Key Stakeholders are Well-informed (including about special education finance issues)
- ❖ Secondary Transition

At 5:25pm SAC members convened with their respective subcommittees to meet

## **Agenda VII:** Reports from Subcommittees, with Group Input/Discussion

At 6:14pm SAC members reconvened as a group and reported out.

### Children with Disabilities Who Have Absent Parent(s)

Present: Candace, Heidi, Dan, Kerri-Lynn, Jason

Discussed the presentation "Children with Absent Parents" and presenting this next year at Education conferences, DCYF, children's mental health, IOD to raise awareness of the problem / trauma associated with having an absent parent.

- need statistics about the number of children impacted in NH
- Brainstormed how to gather this information, youth Risk Behavior Surveillance system doesn't get at this information
- jails ask about whether inmates have children, but not school aged children. 3 largest jails are Rockingham (600 inmates), Strafford ( 400), Hillsborough ( 800), Jason and Candace will work on creating some survey questions for jails and contact them to try to get these numbers
- Heidi will contact the Veterans Administration to gather information on # of deployed military in NH with school aged children ( 3- graduation)
- Candace will look into #'s placed in foster care system
- discussed parents who are present but not providing care to their children due to mental illness, substance abuse, etc.

Next month will report out on what we have accomplished, information gathered, and discuss once awareness is raised how to put supports in place/ develop relationships with trusted adults, where to present, how to engage schools around this issue given local control.

### Ensuring that School Boards and Other Key Stakeholders are Well-informed (including about special education finance issues)

The Committee discussed short term goals funding avenues, how these monies, once received back where do the funds go back, to town's general funds for taxes not special education services. Use funds to educate, would like to see funds go back to special education; special education is providing funding to towns with CAT AID. Would like a simple and clear, user friendly document to explain special education funding, and tall funding that goes back to school districts, and funding the is sent to the towns. Bonnie has a document and will send out the final version.

## Secondary Transition

Discussed problems with transitions, or the lack of; transition is like a bomb at the end of school and students have no clue what is next and is overwhelming for parents, time consuming for area agencies services, and VR. There is a lack of individual/individuals who are centered transition planning; at age 14 find out what a student goals are, this is a real need. There are many Cool programs that are great programs for kids with learning disabilities, but they don't have access to the programs; need to take steps to make sure of equal participation and equal opportunities. Develop an action plan, transition survey as a baseline; disseminate information to parents, smoother plan, not dumped on at end of high school for transitions. Need one more meeting for recommendations and actions.

### **Agenda VIII:** New Business, Emerging Issues, Announcements, Current Events, Public Comment

- Heidi informed the SAC Members of the 2015 Conference on School Culture, Climate & Positive Behavior Support, August 12-13, 2015. Distributed the flyer.
- As part of the Conference on School Culture, Climate & Positive Behavior Support, they are recruiting middle and high school-aged youth to participate to participate in the conference: Be the Change: Youth Perspectives on Improving the Culture & Climate of our Schools.
- May 7<sup>th</sup> is Children's Mental Health Awareness Day 2015, 2:30pm-4:30pm, at the State House. Heidi advised all about the day, If anyone has public information to get out, send to Bonnie and she can use this platform to send to all interested parties.
- Governor Hassan is signing HB 47, repealing the payment of subminimum wages to persons with disabilities.
- Maureen Tracey, Laconia will be sponsoring the Pumpkin Festival this year. Maureen with the Laconia Police will be rolling out PBIS in conjunction with the Festival.

### **Agenda VIII:** Adjourn – next meeting June 3, 2015

*Reminder: the last meeting for the year ~ at the June meeting we elect  
a new chair for the following year*

- Dan Ward made a motion to Adjourn, motion was seconded Kerri-Lynn Kimner; all in favor, with exception of the following (left early) Senator Stiles, Representative Heath, Jean Parsons, Janet Reed, Kestrel Cole-McCrea and Candace Cole-McCrea. Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.